

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended):): An image display apparatus comprising:

a plurality of thin display devices, each having a communication unit for transmitting and receiving image data expressing an image and a display unit for displaying an image based on the image data received by the communication unit; and

a holding stand, for substantially vertically holding the plurality of thin display devices, having a transmission unit for transmitting the image data to the thin display devices,

wherein a front surface of the holding stand has a U-shaped section at ~~both~~ each of two side ends and ~~a~~ another U-shaped section at a lower end.

2. (original): An image display apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the holding stand holds the thin display devices such that the thin display devices are stacked on each other.

3. (original): An image display apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the holding stand includes a holding unit which can be attached to and detached from the holding stand while the holding stand holds the thin display devices.

4. (original): An image display apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the holding stand further includes an input unit which can input a designation including an image display designation to the display unit.

5. (original): An image display apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the holding stand further includes an adding unit for adding, to the image data, page information expressing a page to be displayed in the plurality of thin display devices and page position information expressing a current page position of the image data by updating pages, and transmits the image data, to which the page information and the page position information have been added by the adding unit, to the thin display device by the transmission unit;

and the thin display devices further include a decision unit for comparing the page information and the page position information of the image data received by the communication unit with each other to decide whether or not the page information and the page position information coincide with each other, an updating unit for updating the page position information after the decision made by the decision unit, and a sending unit for sending the image data, to which the page information and the page position information updated by the updating unit have been added, to the thin display device of the subsequent page or the holding stand.

6. (original): An image display apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the holding stand further includes a storage unit for storing image data related to images displayed on the plurality of held thin display devices and the page information and the page position information added to the image data.

7. (original): An image display apparatus according to claim 6, wherein when an image has been displayed on a thin display device held by the holding stand, the adding unit adds the page information and the page position to the image data based on the image data which is stored in the storing unit and to which the page information and the page position information have been added, such that the latest image is on a frontmost surface.

8. (currently amended): An image data writing method for writing image data in a plurality of thin display devices in a state in which the plurality of detachable thin display devices are stacked on each other and held, the method comprising the steps of:

when write designation is performed, writing image data expressing an image which has already been written in the plurality of thin display devices in thin display devices respectively located one surface behind thin display devices in which the image data is already written without physically moving the thin display devices; and

writing the latest image data designated to be written in a thin display device located at a frontmost surface of the plurality of thin display devices.

9. (original): A thin display file including a plurality of thin display devices each having a display unit for displaying an image based on image data expressing an image, and a host device for holding the plurality of thin display devices such that pages of the thin display devices are connected in series with each other and for sequentially transmitting the image data to the plurality of thin display devices, wherein:

the host device includes

an adding unit for adding, to the image data, page information expressing a page to be displayed in the plurality of thin display devices held as a plurality of pages and page position information expressing a current page position of the image data by updating pages, and

a transmission unit for transmitting the image data, to which the page information and the page position information have been added by the adding unit to the thin display devices; and

each of the thin display device includes

a receiving unit for receiving the image data to which the page information and the page position information have been added,

a decision unit for comparing the page information and the page position information of the image data received by the receiving unit with each other to decide whether or not the page information and the page position information coincide with each other,

a control unit for controlling the display of the display unit based on a decision result of the decision unit,

an updating unit for updating the page position information after the decision by the decision unit, and

a sending unit for sending the image data, to which the page information and the page position information updated by the updating unit have been added, to the thin display device of the subsequent page or the host device.

10. (original): A thin display file according to claim 9, wherein the host device includes an accumulation unit for accumulating image data expressing images to be displayed on the thin display devices, and an input unit for selecting the image data accumulated in the accumulation unit and inputting display designations including the page information.

11. (original): A thin display file according to claim 9, wherein the thin display devices have the display units on front and rear surfaces thereof, the adding unit further adds, to the image data, front/rear information expressing the front and rear of a thin display device which is to display an image, and the control unit controls display on the display units on the front and rear surfaces of the thin display device based on the decision result of the decision unit and the front/rear information.

12. (original): A thin display file according to claim 9, wherein in the series connection, connection sections through which the pages are electrically connected when the plurality of pages of the thin display devices are stacked on each other are arranged on the front surfaces and rear surfaces of the thin display devices, and host connection sections are arranged at positions at the host device corresponding to the connection sections and are connected to the connection sections.

13. (original): A data communication method for a thin display file including a plurality of thin display devices each having a display unit for displaying an image based on image data expressing an image and a host device for holding a plurality of pages of the thin display devices such that the pages are connected in series with each other and for sequentially transmitting the image data to the plurality of thin display devices, wherein:

the host device adds, to the image data, page information expressing a page to be displayed in the plurality of thin display devices held in the host device and page position

information expressing a current page position of the image data by updating pages and sequentially transmits the image data to the thin display devices held in the host device; and

the thin display devices of the plurality of pages held in the host device receive the image data to which the page information and the page position information have been added, display images on the display units based on the image data in which the page information and the page position information of the image data coincide with each other, update the page position information, and sequentially transmit image data in which the page position information is updated to the thin display devices of the subsequent pages or the host device.

14. (original): A data communication method according to claim 13, wherein, when the thin display devices have the display units on front and rear surfaces thereof, the host device further adds, to the image data, front/rear information expressing the front and rear of a thin display device which is to display an image, in addition to the page information and the page position information, and each thin display device displays images on the display units on the front and rear surfaces based on the image data in which the page information and the page position information coincide with each other and the front/rear information.

15. (original): A thin display file including a plurality of thin display devices each having a display unit for displaying an image based on image data expressing an image, and a host device for holding the plurality of thin display devices such that pages of the thin display devices are connected in series with each other and for sequentially transmitting the image data to the plurality of thin display devices, wherein:

the host device includes

an adding unit for adding, to the image data, page information expressing a page to be displayed in the plurality of thin display devices held as a plurality of pages, and

a transmission unit for transmitting the image data, to which the page information has been added by the adding unit, to the thin display devices; and

each of the thin display devices includes

a receiving unit for receiving the image data to which the page information has been added,

a decision unit for comparing the page information of the image data received by the receiving unit and page setting information preset for each thin display device depending on the series connections between the thin display devices with each other to decide whether or not the page information and the page setting information coincide with each other,

a control unit for controlling the display of the display units based on a decision result of the decision unit, and

a sending unit for sending the image data, to which the page information has been added, to the thin display device of the subsequent page or the host device.

16. (original): A data communication method for a thin display file including a plurality of thin display devices each having a display unit for displaying an image based on image data expressing an image, and a host device for holding a plurality of pages of the thin display devices such that the pages are connected in series with each other and for sequentially transmitting the image data to the plurality of thin display devices, wherein:

the host device adds, to the image data, page information expressing a page to be displayed in the plurality of thin display devices held in the host device and sequentially transmits the image data to the thin display devices held in the host device; and

the thin display devices of the plurality of pages held in the host device receive the image data to which the page information has been added, display images on the display units based on image data in which the page information of the image data and page setting information preset for each thin display device depending on a series connection between the thin display devices coincide with each other, and sequentially transmit the image data, to which the page information has been added, to the thin display device of the subsequent page or the host device.

17-26 (canceled).

27. (New): An image data writing method according to claim 8, wherein the image data expressing an image which has already been written are sequentially sent to the plurality of thin display devices without removing the plurality of thin display devices from a holding stand